



BADGER & MANLEY Publishers.

Vol. XLVI.

## Maine Farmer.

SAMUEL L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

### Wheat Growing in Maine.

When our assessors took the valuation last spring, they had to value the land with the amount of potatoes, oats, etc., raised by each farmer; but the strangest part of it was there was no column for wheat. Upon inquiry I find that the blanks were sent round to every town in the State, but there were some old ones printed before wheat was generally raised in the State. Now we hope that our law-makers will take this matter into consideration and print out one for wheat, to be sent to each town. We feel slighted in not having our wheat noticed as well as the four or five bushels of wax made in the plantation last year, especially when we know that there are many bushels and bushels of wheat to every pound of beeswax made. I understand that the mill at Presque Isle ground last year 23,000 bushels of wheat. Two farms in this plantation last year had fifty bushels of wheat, and five acres, to wit, Thomas Clark 20 bushels and Henry Tilley 30. Mr. Clark has threshed these acres of wheat and has a team of horses to thresh them. We consider these bushels machine-made, which can safely be called ninety bushels threshed measure. His wheat was very dry. In one small school district (No. 5) there was raised in two years five acres, in a land of forty acres of wheat, and I think a larger amount in the remaining four districts in this plantation, to say nothing of the farm in Caribou, which we hope will be raised this year. We really hope that next spring there will be sent out some blanks printed at a later period than the good old pod-angled days. I should like to see the statistics gathered up in the State of Aroostook for this year's crop. I think the total would be surprising and encouraging.

EDWARD TATE.

This matter of a agricultural statistics to which our express agent alludes is a most important one, and yet little comes of it; that is of value, to the State or to economic science, because it is so imperfectly carried out. There is a statute, we believe, requiring the assessors of towns to make certain returns to the Secretary of State for which purpose blanks are sent out to the several towns by that officer; but no penalty is attached to his non-fulfillment, it impairs any extra amount of work on the assessors, for which no compensation is provided, and as the statute cannot be enforced, the matter receives very little attention. It would be a good thing to know how many bushels of a certain crop were grown in any town in Maine during a given year—but so few returns are forwarded to the office of the Secretary of State as to be practically of no benefit. This seems surprising that so little is done for what appears in the blanks of which our express agent speaks—but it would have been an easy matter to have supplied one, as there have been. We are glad, however, that he supplies this deficiency, to some extent in regard to his own section, and the figures are such as to command attention from every farmer. Four or five thousand bushels of wheat in a single little plantation in Aroostook county with not more than two hundred and fifty inhabitants, probably, is something that shows the capacity of Aroostook for wheat growing in a marked degree. A. T. was told when at Presque Isle the last of September, that the number of bushels of wheat to be ground at that village the present season would probably reach the very large number of FORTY THOUSAND BUSHELS. Another statement made to us by a most intelligent gentleman, was that the county would this year grow wheat enough for the wants of its own population—being entirely independent of foreign flour for its own citizens. These facts and those given by our express agent, as well as many more of a similar nature which have been reported in our own columns heretofore, and given in private letters, abundantly testify to the ability of our own state to grow the wheat its citizens need for their own wants. What is true of Aroostook county is also true of every other part of Maine without exception. From every county we have only good returns from the wheat crop, and we regret the full figures of the same cannot be had from every town in Maine. It will be such, this year, however, as to leave by a good deal the amount of flour purchased, and the money which it took to buy it can be devoted to other objects. A good crop of wheat is the surest sign of prosperity, and this good sign we have all over Maine the present season.

For more than ten years, as our diles will show, we have been urging upon the farmers of Maine to make wheat one of the leading staple crops of the farm. Instances enough have been given of those who have grown wheat successfully every year for the past twenty-five years, to encourage all farmers generally to make it a crop to make provision for and depend upon for the year after year—and for this cause we have urged the growing of wheat by all farmers, in the State. The facts and figures which we have from time to time given upon this matter, are familiar to our readers, and need not be repeated. The local press throughout the State generally, took up our plea for Maine growing flour, and has done good service in helping on this change in our farming, a change which has brought with it so much of security and independence—and it is justly entitled to much praise for its work. But from every quarter we hear reports giving the old FARMERS the credit for its influence in this direction.

### Acknowledgments.

We have received a specimen of a late sweet apple, from a seedling raised by Bullock Brothers of New Haven. The apple is above medium in size, the flesh rather coarse, and to our taste the flavor is wanting in positive merit. It seems to possess the quality of late keeping, however, and the stalk of a cask or barrel. The apple (Bullock) measuring eleven feet in height, has been left at our office by D. Page, Bullock.

"OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY AND OUR BROTHER MAN."

Augusta, Maine, Saturday Morning, November 2, 1878.

TERMS: Two Dollars in Advance.

No. 49.

### Aroostook County.—

#### Recent Notes of Travel and Observation.

During the last week of September we visited Aroostook county for the third time, going over in part some of the sections examined when on a trip through the county some five years ago, and also extending our route through portions of country not traversed on the former visit:—and while the recent visit gave an opportunity for noting the progress made during the last five years, it also afforded a chance of becoming acquainted with portions that were entirely new to us. Without attempting to give a connected account of our tour, we have thought some notes of a few observations and experiences in the county might not be without interest to our readers generally.

With the situation, extent and physical characteristics of this northeastern county of Maine—this portion of our State, large enough for a State by itself, which is of us, and yet so far away from us that we know little of it, an which is as near the British possessions on our eastern border, as to be almost as their Native—our readers are already familiar. But though familiar with these peculiarities from descriptions, as they have read them in the papers, they would do well to visit the county for themselves, that they may never be really comprehend. Take for example the size of Aroostook county. Few comprehend that it is nearly as large as the State of Massachusetts, that one may ride from its eastern boundary at the line of the E. & N. A. Railway, one hundred and twenty-five miles northward and yet be within the county—though possibly he would pass in this distance sections that would remind him more of a prairie than of a forest, the Yankee land which with its extensive farms, and small flourishing villages, splendid roads, schools, elegant farms and all the evidences of an old civilization, as well as immense regions of unbroken forest and new prairie land. It is not easy, as many who have not visited it seem to imagine, that one may ascend a high hill in the county and look all over it. But on the contrary the extent of territory embraced within this "inside" world of Aroostook, surprises one by its vastness. The magnificent forests; the extensive ridges of elegant rolling land; the fine farms, and long stretches of fine farms side by side for miles in the better settled portions; the undeveloped resources; the opportunities for business; the chance to "spread out," to do farming on a large scale—these things come upon the mind with astonishment, and produce an emotion of surprise and wonder. We exclaim at once: Why have our young men of average capacity for business, and controlling only average capital, left this rich and undeveloped country just as home, with its immense resources and healthy climate, to meet the stirring strife and uncertainty of business among more wealthy competitors in our great West, in the South, or the wilds of unexplored territories? Here at home, in our good state, opportunities for business, and for health and wealth for such men, that they have never dreamed of, because their minds have been turned by the misrepresentations of business for business offered by the Association of State to be practically of no benefit. It seems surprising that so little is done for what appears in the blanks of which our express agent speaks—but it would have been an easy matter to have supplied one, as there have been. We are glad, however, that he supplies this deficiency, to some extent in regard to his own section, and the figures are such as to command attention from every farmer. Four or five thousand bushels of wheat in a single little plantation in Aroostook county with not more than two hundred and fifty inhabitants, probably, is something that shows the capacity of Aroostook for wheat growing in a marked degree. A. T. was told when at Presque Isle the last of September, that the number of bushels of wheat to be ground at that village the present season would probably reach the very large number of FORTY THOUSAND BUSHELS. Another statement made to us by a most intelligent gentleman, was that the county would this year grow wheat enough for the wants of its own population—being entirely independent of foreign flour for its own citizens. These facts and those given by our express agent, as well as many more of a similar nature which have been reported in our own columns heretofore, and given in private letters, abundantly testify to the ability of our own state to grow the wheat its citizens need for their own wants. What is true of Aroostook county is also true of every other part of Maine without exception. From every county we have only good returns from the wheat crop, and we regret the full figures of the same cannot be had from every town in Maine. It will be such, this year, however, as to leave by a good deal the amount of flour purchased, and the money which it took to buy it can be devoted to other objects. A good crop of wheat is the surest sign of prosperity, and this good sign we have all over Maine the present season.

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Another striking feature in the physical aspect of Aroostook county is the almost complete absence of boulders, and generally no evidence of the drift formation—pebbles, gravel, rocks, etc. In this respect the land has a strong appearance to that of some of the superior farming States of the great Northwest—and in this is its strongest agricultural advantage. The land is generally cleared, and there are stones or rocks to interfere with cultivation, or to make the clearing of the land expensive. One acre of land, for hundreds of miles and hardly find stones enough to make the dollars or cents up the walls. The under-

### Communications.

#### For the Maine Farmer.

#### The Despotism of the United States.—III.

I have in the two preceding papers briefly discussed the method of irrigation employed at the Belle View Ranch in Scotland, and the cost of the crop which are raised there. The managers do not, however, confine their attention exclusively to crops. A large tract of land—about forty thousand acres—was purchased and well stocked with cattle. There are upon this ranch nearly twenty thousand head of good beef cattle, and it is the custom to

prefer to be a freeholder, and the owners of the land are generally the same citizens of the country as the managers, and it is more desirable from broad views of policy and from self-interest, to sell the property outright if possible.

It is not unusual that in every other part of the world that there is not sufficient capital. The men who have enough money to purchase two or three hundred acres of land do not as a rule do so.

In a country of great commercial enterprises and feverish speculation where fortunes are quickly lost and still more quickly won, the man possessing moderate capital is compelled to buy up land, and to buy up land so.

The number of entries given, but a faint idea of the number of entries on the grounds and in the hall. For instance, our venerable friend Geo. Pierce, Esq., who has in late years developed a great love for the flower garden, and flower cultivation had 72 different kinds of flowers in his collection, which was a superb one. It is impossible to give any detailed report of the exhibition, and I will only quote a sentence of our able reporter, Mr. W. E. Gibbs, Esq., in his report at the annual meeting held on Monday evening, preceding the fair. He says:

"The show of the products of the orchard and garden was enough to establish the fact that the orchard and garden in the front rank of agricultural and horticultural towns."

The show of the fresh flowers of spring, of

W. E. Gibbs, Esq., in his report.

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# The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper

## Maine Farmer

Augusta, Nov. 2, 1878.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

2.00 IN ADVANCE, OR \$1.00 IF NOT PAID WHEN THIS MONTHS DATE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Postage Free to all subscribers.

All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to the newspaper. The printed date is to be connected with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for money remitted by him.

A subscriber requesting to change his post-office address to a different place, must communicate the name of the office to which it has been sent, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

**Notice to Delinquent Subscribers.**

We are now making up the accounts of subscribers to the *Maine Farmer*, who are indebted for the paper from the year 1872 to the present time, to be placed in the hands of an attorney for collection. Opportunity will be given to all who are thus in arrears to make payment to our agents or to this office, at our advertised rates on or before Oct. 1, 1878. If delayed beyond that date, collection will be enforced by legal means.

**Collectors' Notices.**

Mr. J. P. Clark, our agent, will call upon our subscribers to collect their November bill.

Mr. W. K. Leland of Sherman Mills, will call upon our subscribers in Aroostook county during November.

Mr. C. S. AYER, Agent for the FARMER, will call upon our subscribers in Androscoggin, and Oxford counties during November.

Mr. S. N. TAPER will call upon our subscribers in Washington County during November.

**Wheat growing in Maine.**

**The MAINE FARMER Premiums.**

It is unnecessary to go over many words in order to show that our State possesses the best possible natural capabilities and advantages for becoming a great wheat producing State—provided the farmers themselves perform their part of the business. We have a good wheat growing climate, soil with good natural drainage, and the means for abundant manuring and high culture. Possibly the last named elements towards a good wheat crop have not been employed to the degree they should have been, but our farmers are coming to see their importance, and it may be safe to say that they will be used to a greater extent hereafter.

Take Memphis, a city of forty-five thousand people, the death have been over three thousand, one in every fifteen, literally sweeping the people away. There is now in Memphis to-day houses occupied by owners and tenants have completely disappeared as if they never existed.

Hungry was the air around; Hungry was the sky above them, And the eyes of wolves glared at them.

Although these lines graphically described the affliction that has rested upon the South, there has been a bright side to the dark picture. Think of the heroic devotion of the thousands of the brave men and women who, in fighting contagion, have lost their own lives that they might save those of others, or even afford them brief comfort in their dying hours. Martyrs have perished at the stake than the state that many of those who have given their lives in endeavoring to mitigate the ravages of this pestilence. Howard and Christian associations and trained nurses sprang up all over the land. The people in all parts of our country have been filled with sympathetic and helpful spirit, and have given abundantly to those who are suffering. It is not exactly known whether by ceasing to grow wheat the farmers of our State have killed off the midge by not providing in a wheat crop its natural food; it was one of those periodic scourges which have then and there disappeared, or are cleared by causes in Nature that are obscure to us, or whether by becoming acquainted with its habits through the aid of scientific investigation, farmers have been enabled to circumvent its ravages by sowing the seed at a time when it will bring the berry into the milk state, at a period when the fly depositing the egg for the midge is not present. Possibly each of these causes may have had their share in helping on the overthrow of the wheat midge, and again bringing about the growth of this kingly pest as a staple crop on our farms. Back of these we think there has been another agency at work to undertake it on the part of others after so many and repeated failures. But it has been done, and Maine is once more beginning to creep into a position of recognition as a wheat producing State.

For the past ten years the *MAINE FARMER* has been urging upon its constituents the growing of wheat. It has constantly held up as encouragement to this end the successes of those prudent, courageous farmers, of which there have been many all over our State, who have persistently grown wheat year out and year in, generally with good success. It has published the accounts in detail of all large and successful crops. It has shown by accurate figures the enormous sums paid out by our people, and by a large portion of our farmers, for western flour. It has tried to induce among our farmers a feeling of faith in their business, and that the good prosecution of that business demanded first of all the growing of wheat, the keeping of stock, the consumption of the hay upon the farms, and the saving of every pound of fertilizer made.

The results of their efforts and encouragement, which have been showing themselves gradually during the past three or four years, are more marked this season than ever before. Our wheat crop is heavy. We have grown this year 1,200,000 bushels where we only grew 278,000 in 1869. Large yields per acre, and large yields in towns and districts have been reported from every quarter of the State.

In appreciation of the efforts which the farmers of our State have made in the growing of wheat to our calls; and as a still further inducement to the raising of the larger yields, the better preparation of the land, and more intensive culture for the Farmers' Society offer a prize of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN CASH, in three premiums, to be paid to the successful competitor in the fall of 1879, upon the following conditions:

On the part of the Proprietors of the *MAINE FARMER*. The money will be placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the State Agricultural Society, the Trustees of which shall provide the sum to be by them awarded on the second day of the meeting of the State Fair, in the fall of 1879 in premiums of \$50, \$30, and \$20, respectively to those farmers in Maine who shall grow the largest amount of wheat per acre, the second largest, and the third largest.

On the part of the competitors. Farmers who intend to compete for this premium shall signify such intention to us on or before June 1st, 1879, at which time the list of competitors will be published in our columns. The land on which the crop is grown shall consist of one acre of 4840 square yards which shall be measured by a sworn surveyor. The yield of the crop shall be given in bushels and quarts, and a statement, sworn to before a Justice of the Peace, shall be presented to the Committee after the same is harvested, containing the yield of the acre, the method of preparing the ground, mode of culture, &c.

Now brother farmers, make preparations for the *MAINE FARMER* prize wheat crop, this fall, and may a bountiful harvest bless the fields of every farmer in our goodly State the coming year.

**THE WELCOME FROST.** The yellow fever has been raging in the Southern States for over one hundred days, it having commenced on the 17th of July. The total number of deaths which have been reported have reached over ten thousand, and the record is certainly a frightful one. The greatest number of deaths have occurred at New Orleans, Memphis standing second, Vicksburg third, Grenada fourth, and Greenville fifth on the list. In New Orleans over thirty-nine hundred deaths have occurred. In 1867 the epidemic swept over the city, commencing its work of destruction on the second day of August, ending on the fifth of November after claiming twenty-nine hundred and fifty-eight victims. In 1853 the epidemic commenced on the first day of July and terminated on the twenty-sixth of September, but not until it had recorded eight thousand one hundred and seventeen deaths. In 1853 the largest number of deaths in New Orleans upon a given day was two hundred and fifty-four; in 1867 two hundred and fifty-four; this year ninety. The disease has been more violent in 1867, but not as violent as in 1853. Nearly every established theory as to yellow fever has been modified or destroyed by the experience of this season. In previous years children were less subject to the disease than adults. This year they have been more liable to attacks, and the fatality among them has been greater. In past years acclimated persons stood in little dread of the disease. This year the deaths among acclimated persons have been numerous. In previous years the colored man was seldom stricken with the malady. This year the fatality among the colored people has been very large—even quadruple has availed little. No one can justice to the horrors of the plague in the places where it has been most destructive. Take Memphis, a city of forty-five thousand people, the death have been over three thousand, one in every fifteen, literally sweeping the people away. There is now in Memphis to-day houses occupied by owners and tenants have completely disappeared as if they never existed.

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The ravages of the Black Death, which swept over Europe between 1348 and 1351, were more extended and frightful than those of the London plague. The disease is regarded as the most violent that has ever been known.

It is the record of the pestilence of

which we have been made acquainted with

by some modern authors as akin to

the plague of the East, while others hold it

to be the typhus fever of the most malignant type.

It spread from Turkey to Scandina-

via, and even crossed into Africa, hav-

ing previously killed 13,000,000 persons in

China and 34,000,000 in the other countries

of the East. In fifteen European cities an

aggregate of 300,000 deaths occurred; in

London alone 155,000 died; half of the popu-

lation of Italy perished, while Germany is

said to have lost 1,344,434 of its inhabitants

in Naples, 1656 200,000 are said to have

died of the plague in a single day. Not

long since occurred.

From 1741 to 1822 New York had eleven yellow fever seasons. In 1793 there were, in a

population of 55,000, over 3,000 deaths, and in 1800 the plague was so great that over half the people (37,000) left the city. In 1798 Philadelphia was nearly desolated by the yellow fever, the deaths in a population of 150,000 died; half of the population of 450,000 died; in 1804, five years later 50,000 out of the 70,000 inhabitants in Philadelphia died from the city, and the death rate was over 100 per day. Since 1822 the disease has not prevailed in either city. The mortality in 1822 was 100 per day. In 1857 New York had 37 cases in quarantine and 117 deaths. Drainage and better sanitary regulations may not be complete preventives to a return of the malady, but they are subjects of special interest to the cities of the South.

**BISMARCK'S TRIUMPH.** The passage of

the Socialist bill by the German parliament

by the decisive vote of two hundred and

twenty-one against one hundred and forty-

was a great triumph for the Chancery.

After the crimes in the Unter den Linden, Bismarck dissolved the Reichstag and endeavored to obtain a return of a conservative majority. When he became satisfied that he could not accomplish this, he re-opened negotiations with the Vatican and bargained for the support of the Catholics, of which he had been a member as an enemy of the State. After he became convinced that he could not sustain this alliance, he suddenly effected a compromise with the Liberals. In the last session he had a majority of two to one.

He then turned his attention to the

conservatives and Liberals.

In the present parliament, he is

still a member of the Socialists.

He has been a member of the Reichstag

since 1867, and has been a member of the

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## Poetry.

### In Harvest Time.

I sat one morning in a little bower  
Under a canopy of green leaves,  
I watched the rakers on the heavy wain  
With high with cheese to their shovels.  
The sun shone bright and round,  
With tiny harvest gleanings of the corn  
Under the sun, and the sun was round.  
And still I would not believe it till I had  
walked across the moor and had seen the  
shutters fast closed and the door barred,  
And not a sign of smoke about the place. Then  
I said to myself, "I will have all pale and  
trembling, and sat down at grandmamma's knee."

"Heart!" said I further, "there was good seed sown  
In thy furrows ere late Winter's snow,  
And in thy fields the frosty spuds spout.  
There is thin harvest of good things and true,  
Where is thin harvest of good things and true,  
The crown of work appointed to do,  
The leaves whereupon his garden should be sown."

Where is the harvest? Joy, the rendering of the sun,  
The harvest of the sun, the golden spuds spout?

The steep contentment satisfied and strong,  
The world resting in the sun, the sun was round.

He who sows would know thy harvest see,  
Yet still my heart is not made to me.

But ere the autumn comes time again,  
The sun is still bright, the frosty spuds spout.

The ploughs of strong sorrow and sharp pain  
Delved deeply, striking to the innermost, yet

The which my heart received repented, grave,  
And the ground of the harvest given.

What though in weariness my shovels were bound,  
What though within my heart no song was found,

What though within my heart no song was found,

An angel lighted on the new respect seed,

And bare the blessed first fruits up to God!

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## Our Story Teller.

### A NOBLE GENTLEMAN.

#### THE STORY OF AN OLD LADY.

I sat spinning at my little wheel in the sun, for the autumn day was cold, when I heard some whistling, and looking up, there was young 'Squire Turner, with his arms folded on the glass looking out.

He had caught my eye, and I was glad; and blushed; and I rose and made him a courtesy.

He was a handsome gentleman, the 'Squire, and the hand in which he held the sun glasses shone with pearls and diamonds; and he was bonny to look at, with his hair like spun gold in the October sun.

When I courted him he bowed, making his curtsies over his shoulders, and said, he'd read some one pretty picture that I could have looked at all day, but I've made another as pretty, so I'll not grieve you," I consented.

"And welcome, sir!" said I; and I set a chair for him, for he was grandfather's landlord; but for all that I felt uncomfortable, for I was a girl.

He talked away, paying me more compliments than I was used to, for grandmother, who brought me up, always said, "Handsome is as handsome does," and "Beauty is but a name."

Since I'm telling the story I'll tell the truth. I had done wrong about one thing. Neither of the old folk knew that I were taken a walk with another under the hawthorn that green in the church lane. I never meant to deceive, but grandie gave me a little lie, and then knelt down under the stars and prayed to be taken out of the world; "for how can I live without Evan?" I said.

"The old folks words aloud, and then started up in alarm, for there at my side was an elish little figure, and heard a cry that at first I scarce thought earthly. Yet it was but Scotch Jenie, who had followed me, and again started up in alarm, for she was working at, instead.

She was worrying the fisherman and keeping the sea-coast villages in constant alarm during her cruise, she came to anchor in John's island, near Peninsular, Saturday Sept. 30th.

The old folks were commanded by Capt. Samuel Blythe, had been fitted out at St. John's N. B., with a view of meeting and fighting the Enterprise. She was a new strong vessel and the old crew had been stowed in the equipment. She sailed from St. John but a few days before he capture, and entering the harbor of Eastport, hauled aback her iron hull, and lay a minute or two threatening the town with a broadside. After indulging in this bragado, she closed her ports, filled her sails, and again started up in alarm, for she was working at.

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